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industrial life and institutions. "The protest is necessary, both in the interests of science and in the interests of practical politics. The student of economic science, as such, does not provide social precepts; it is his business to study the phenomena in the same spirit as that in which the physiologist and pathologist study the phenomena of health and disease." The scope and method of economics, as presented here, correspond with the limits and modes of investigation set forth by Professors Keynes, Marshall and Nicholson.

In "Contributions to the History of the Social Contract Theory," the students of political science, and especially those interested in the history of the development of political theories, will find a scholarly essay dealing with this interesting and important phase in the evolution of opinion regarding the nature of society and the State. The notion that society and government arose or had its beginning in a "social contract" played a great part in the revolutionary politics of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in England and France; and we have the course of its history traced here. The doctrine as such was first clearly discernible in the mediæval writers. The Greek Sophists, however, advanced philosophical ideas that anticipated the later developments. The individualism of Epicurus made the contract theory fit in with the philosophy of pleasure. Greek thought, nevertheless, as represented by Plato and Aristotle looked upon society as a "social organism." In the Middle Ages the notion took hold of the political and ecclesiastical writers, the authority for which was found in the Bible and Roman law. Many interesting passages from original authorities are quoted, showing how widely prevalent the doctrine was, not only in philosophical but in practical politics in the seventeenth century. The different phases which the contract theory assumed in the writings and times of Thomas Aquinas, Hooker, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Kant, are dwelt upon at some length.

FRANK I. HERRIOTT.

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I Primi Due Secoli della Storia di Firenze, Recerche di PASQUALE VILLARI. Vol. I. Firenze: G. C. Sansoni. 1893.

Although during the last decade much has been done by such men as Capponi, Del Lungo and Hartwig toward giving us a clearer insight into the early history of Florence, there still remains so much to be done that this volume of Mr. Villari will be welcomed by all students of Italian history. What we need most is the economic and social history of the city. Burckhardt's work on the "Civilization of the

Renaissance" hardly takes us back far enough into the city's history. As the author aptly puts it: "the history of Italian liberty, from the Middle Ages to the time of Charles VIII. (1494), is the history of the Italian cities." The history of these cities is therefore the *sine qua non* to an understanding of the subsequent development of the Italian people. The very first chapter of Mr. Villari's book deals with the origin of the city, a subject which seems to be lost in a confused mass of legends. We are, however, taken as far back as the beginning of the twelfth century. The second chapter treats of the "Origin of the Commune of Florence," and traces the administration of the city during the twelfth century. The remaining four chapters of the book treat of the "First Wars and Reforms of the City," "The Parties and Guilds of Florence," "The Predominance of Florence in Tuscany" and "The Commerce and Polity of the Guilds of Florence." To the economist the last chapter is by far the most interesting. The history of the seven guilds, their marvelous development and continual quarrels, forms one of the most interesting and suggestive periods in Italian history. The author brings out with great clearness the contrast between the flourishing condition of art and commerce, and the gradual decline of the political institutions which ended in the loss of that large measure of civic liberty, so characteristic of the earlier days of the republic. If the succeeding volumes are as full of instruction and interest as these first seven chapters, the work of Mr. Villari will take equal rank with his "Life of Savonarola."

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Staatenbund und Bundesstaat, Untersuchungen über die Praxis und das Recht der modernen Bünde, von Dr. J. B. WESTERKAMP. Pp. 549. Leipzig, 1892.

The theory of the composite State and the best method of classifying its various forms ought to be of especial interest to us. Not only is our own government one of the most remarkable examples of its species, but its establishment in 1789 was the beginning of a movement which has spread over a great portion of the civilized world and rendered the composite State the most characteristic product of this century in the field of political organization. Hitherto, however, the speculation upon this topic has taken a variety of invariably hopeless turns. We have forgotten how numerous and diverse are the examples of composite States which this century alone has seen, Prof. Hart being, perhaps, the only one in this country who has given careful attention to the foreign unions. Over a dozen excellent examples